Artificial Language ***Reqliss*** (Regularized English)

— Linguistic Amusement (Fiction) —

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Introduction

The English language is extremely practical, Roberto Despacito always thought. It is one of the most widely used languages in the world, is convenient for computer input (with only 26 letters without diacritics), and has a relatively simple grammar. However, his biggest complaint has been its relatively chaotic letter-sound correspondence. Now, he has some ideas. What about if we can fix it, to the level of, say, Spanish? Should we create a new way of writing English? Or, should we create an entirely new language, still based on English?

At this point, Roberto thought about Esperanto. Well, the language is said to be neutral and systematic. However, Roberto does not want to "learn" an entirely new language, or so it seemed. He just wanted to take the full advantage of his (limited) knowledge of English.

So, for his amusement, Roberto started to devise a way to write English in a more systematic way. Then, it could be somewhat like writing English with phonetic symbols. However, Roberto wanted to use just 26 letters, as in English. Along the way, he also became interested in eliminating word form changes altogether (even though English verb conjugation is much simpler than, say, Spanish and noun forms are quite manageable compared to, say, Russian).

At this point, Roberto realized that he wanted to create an artificial language of his own, still based on English. First, he named it ***Reqliss*** (corresponding to "Renglish," short for Regularized English, but written in the new language itself). In the end, he also simplified various aspects of English, e.g., the vowel sound system, word forms, and word order. Below, we will see what Roberto did.

Note: The variety of English discussed in this story is (mostly) General American English, reflecting Roberto's familiarity with it.

Letter/Sound Basics

Reqliss uses the 26 alphabet letters (both upper and lower cases) as in English. Each letter corresponds to exactly one sound, well, with some exceptions.

Basic Vowels

The most systematic way of classifying vowel sounds would be the use of so-called "vowel triangle." This is based on the position of the tongue, more specifically, the highest point of the tongue when the sound is produced. In ***Reqliss***, there are six vowel letters and the corresponding sounds as shown in the following table.

	Front	Central	Back
High	*i*		*u*
Mid	*e*	***x***	*o*
Low		*a*	

Note that, in this document, all the sounds/letters in ***Reqliss*** are written in italic.

In the table, the peripheral five letters/sounds are more or less like those in Spanish.

The Mid-central vowel, written as ***x***, corresponds more or less to the short 'u' (e.g., "bud") or reduced 'a' (e.g., "soda") sounds in English. With phonetic symbols, it corresponds to a range of sounds [ə~ɜ~ʌ]. As in this case, special letters/sounds/words in ***Reqliss*** will be shown in bold/red in this document. Now, using this letter, "bud" in English is written as *bxd* in ***Reqliss***. Although this might appear strange, this kind of novelty is unavoidable since we stick to the limited set of alphabet letters.

In principle, these six letters/sounds are always distinguished from one another. However, when reduced vowels are involved, the situation becomes tricky as will be discussed later.

Gliding Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	*iy*		*uw*
Mid	*ey*		*oy*, *ow*
Low		*ay*, *aw*	

For example, English pronoun "I" is written as *ay* (not capitalized in ***Reqliss***). Both "beet" and "beat" are written as *biyt*. Note that the contrast between *i* and *iy* (as well between as *u* and *uw*) is tricky and will be discussed later.

R-colored Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	*ir*		*ur*
Mid	*er*	*xr*	*or*
Low		*ar*	

For example, English words "bear" and "bird" are written as *ber* and *bxrd*, respectively. All of "pear," "pair," and "pare" are written as *per*. Systematic letter-sound correspondence inevitably introduces more homonyms. In some cases, it might be necessary to devise a mechanism to disambiguate them.

British English: There are no r-colored vowels in British English. So, if Roberto adopted the above table for British English, the corresponding ***Reqliss*** letters/sounds would be *ix*, *ex*, *aa*, *oo*, *ux*, *xx* (instead of *ir*, *er*, *ar*, *or*, *ur*, *xr*, respectively). Here, length distinction (in addition to quality) might surface between *a* ([æ] in "cat") and *aa* ([ɑː] "cart"), between *o* ([ɒ] in "cod") and *oo* ([ɔː] in "cord"), and between *x* ([ʌ] in "bud") and *xx* ([ɜː] in "bird"). Although not discussed any further, ***Reqliss*** could be adopted to British English as well, say, as ***Reqliss***$^{\mathit{Brit}}$.

Consonants

The consonant letters/sounds in ***Reqliss*** are in principle a subset of the consonant sounds in English as shown in the following table.

	Lips	Gum ridge	Palate	Soft palate ~
Stop (-/+voice)	*p*/*b*	*t*/*d*		*k*/*g*
Fricative (-/+voice)	*f*/*v* (+teeth)	*s*/*z*	***ss*** [ʃ]/- [ʒ]	*h* (throat)
Affricate (-/+voice)			***c*** [tʃ]/*j* [dʒ]	
Nasal	*m*	*n*		***q*** [ŋ]
Liquid		*l* (lateral)	*r*	
Glide	*w*		*y*	

For example, English words "regular" and "English" are written as *regyulxr* and *iqliss*, respectively. The name of the new language, ***Reqliss***, is a combination of these words, i.e., *Reqliss* = *Re* + *qliss*.

Note:

- The letter sequence ***ss*** corresponds to a single consonant [ʃ] (as in “English”). This is the only case where two identical consonant letters are repeated within a word. It is also the only case where a cluster of consonant letters corresponds to a single sound.
- Two other special cases are **c** ([tʃ] as in “cheese” written as *ciyz*) and ***q*** ([ŋ] as in “song” written as *soq*).
- There is no sound corresponding to ‘th’ (as in English “theme” and “these,” voiceless and voiced examples, respectively). In fact, these sounds are not so common. In ***Reqliss***, these sounds are translated to *s* (voiceless) and *d* (voiced) as in *siym* and *diyz*, respectively. This situation naturally introduces ambiguities, e.g., “thick” vs. “sick” both written as *sik*.
- The sound of [ʒ] (as in English “measure”) is not used in ***Reqliss***. The most obvious alternative is *j* [dʒ] (so, “measure” is written/pronounced as *mejxr*).

Alternative Scenario: Here is another scenario which Roberto considered but did not adopt. The voiceless and voiced ‘th’ (e.g., in “theme” and “these,” respectively) could be written as *tt* and *dd*, respectively. In addition, the sound of [ʒ] (e.g., in “measure”) could be written as *zz*. Then, practically all the distinctive consonant sounds in English could be represented in ***Reqliss***. Instances of ambiguity would be reduced. Since consonant letters are not repeated in ***Reqliss***, all the instances of *tt*, *dd*, *zz*, as well as *ss* could easily recognized as intended. We could call this version ***Reqliss***^{TT}.

However, Roberto is in favor of the the original proposal. First, the occurrences of the voiceless and voiced ‘th’ sounds are relatively limited in English; many of the voiced ones are function words. Second, these sounds are not so common in other major languages either. Next, the occurrences of [ʒ] are extremely rare in English and the distinction between [ʒ] and [dʒ] is not really critical in English or in any other major languages. In contrast, the sounds of [ʃ] (“English”), [tʃ] (“cheese”), and [dʒ] (“judge”) are much more common in English and frequently contrast to one another.

Letter/Sound Details

In order to deal with the complex letter-sound correspondence in English, Roberto needs to discuss some more details about the situation in ***Reqliss***.

Phonics

Before proceeding, it would be useful to observe the following table representing the most common forms of the **short** (as in “bad”) and **long** (as is “bade”) pronunciations of various vowel letters/combinations in English. For each entry, the corresponding letter/sound in ***Reqliss*** is shown.

	Short	Long
‘a’	“bad” [æ] → *a*	“bade” [eɪ] → *ey*
‘e’	“bed” [ɛ] → *e*	“beed” [i] → *iy*
‘i’	“bid” [ɪ] → *i*	“bide” [aɪ] → *ay*
‘o’	“bot” [ɑ] → *a*	“bone” [oʊ] → *ow*
‘u’	“bud” [ʌ] → *x*	“bute” [iu] → *yuw*
‘oo’	“book” [ʊ] → *u*	“boot” [u] → *uw*

i vs. *iy*

In English, the distinction between short ‘i’ [ɪ] (as in “bid”) and long ‘e’ [i] (as in “beed”) is qualitative and not based on length. That is, the highest point of the tongue is higher and more front for long ‘e’ [i] than that of short ‘i’ [ɪ]. Since Roberto wanted to maintain a simple letter-sound correspondence within the limit of 26 alphabet letters, he could not use different letters for these two sounds.

Roberto’s solution was to represent long ‘e’ as a vowel glide *iy*. This approach could be handled in a few different ways in ***Reqliss***. One way would be to pronounce long ‘e’, although written as *iy*, as a single sound [i], just as in English. Another way would be to regard and pronounce long ‘e’ as a gliding vowel [ɪi]. In fact, the latter situation may actually be observed in certain dialects of English. In addition, unlike *i*, *iy* is not involved in r-colored sound (or any further gliding). So, this approach seems reasonable. In either way, it is not really necessary to introduce a new letter to distinguish *i* and *iy*.

Note that there are more complications involved in the case of reduced vowels, which will be discussed later.

u vs. *uw*

This situation is analogous to the previous one. That is, the distinction between short ‘oo’ [ʊ] (as in “book”) and long ‘oo’ [u] (as in “boot”) is represented as *u* vs. *uw*.

a and *o*

As can be seen in the above phonics table, short ‘a’ and short ‘o’ are both written as *a* in ***Reqliss***. As a result, a new kind of ambiguity emerges. For example, both “hat” and “hot” are written as *hat*. Again, this kind of ambiguity is unavoidable in ***Reqliss***. Roberto does not offer a systematic solution for such a case.

Also, the phonics table does not include any item corresponding to ***Reqliss*** sound/letter *o* However, some words such as “caught” [ɔ] are written this way, as in *kot*.

The distinction between long ‘o’ and the vowel in “caught” is made as *ow* vs. *o* (e.g., *kowt* for "coat" vs. *kot* for "caught").

R-colored Vowels

In American English, the sound of [ɝ] (as in "bird") is a simple r-colored vowel and not a combination of two sounds. Thus, strictly speaking, it would make sense to represent it with a single letter. However, again, due to the limitation with the alphabet letters, Roberto uses the *xr* representation for this sound.

Depending on the dialect of American English, the pronunciations of the words "merry," "Mary," and "marry" may or may not be distinguished. Still, Roberto would conservatively write the three words as *meri. mexri*, and *mari*, respectively, in ***Reqliss***.

Reduced Vowels

Reduced vowels in English complicate the letter-sound correspondence, a challenge for ***Reqliss*** as well. The minimal distinctive set of reduced vowels is shown below.

- The vowel sound [ə] in "soda" written as *x*
- The last vowel sound [ɚ] in "letter" written as *xr* (only in American English)
- The vowel sound [ᵻ~ɨ] in "city" written as *i*

More about reduced vowels later.

Ambiguity

For various reasons mentioned earlier, there tend to be more ambiguities in ***Reqliss*** than in English. For example, we have seen the case of "thick" vs. "sick." When absolutely necessary, we might add short pre-modifiers to distinguish different meanings, e.g., *sayz sik* ("size thick") vs. *il sik* ("ill sick") and *bxg ant* ("bug ant") vs. *kin ant* ("kin aunt").

Next, the words "two," "too," and "to" would all be written as *tuw*. However, in this particular case, it might make sense to write "to" as ***tu*** because it is a frequently-used function word and may actually be pronounced weaker than the other two words. Roberto adopts this approach to certain cases. Thus, there will be a small and fixed number of exceptions like this.

Pronunciation

The pronunciation of ***Reqliss*** should be simpler and more systematic than English. The important point is that each letter be distinguished clearly. Then, sound variations for each letter is not as critical.

For example, voiceless consonants, 'p', 't', and 'k' in English may or may not be aspirated, depending on the context. Roberto is not concerned about such variations in ***Reqliss***.

Analogously, he is not concerned about the dark/clear variations of ‘l’ and certain variations of ‘r’.

So, Roberto leaves the details open. In addition, he is not specific about the placement of stress. It can be flat, word initial, word final, etc. However, it should be consistent and systematic. And, by being flexible, Roberto hopes that the complications associated with reduced vowels in English would be eased. His expectation is that ***Reqliss*** could eventually attain the goal of simple/straightforward letter-sound correspondence.

Transliteration Rules

Consonant Letters

In many cases, consonant letters “bdfghjklmnprstvz” are translated directly to the corresponding ***Reqliss*** letters. However, the following rules are applicable:

- Double consonant: **CC** → ***C***
- Common consonant transliteration: “sh” → *ss*, “ch” → *c*, “ng” → ***q***, “que” → *k*(*w*), “s” [ʒ] → *j* [dʒ], “th” (voiceless/voiced) → *s*/*d*, “x” → *ks*,

Vowel Letters

In most regular cases of vowel letter pronunciation, the following table can be used (phonics rules).

	Short (e.g., in CVC)	Long (e.g., in CVCe)
“a”	*a*	*ey*
“e”	*e*	*iy*
“i”	*i*	*ay*
“o”	*a*	*ow*
“u”	***x***	*yu*

Some common cases of vowel letter clusters include: “ay” → *ey*, “au” → *o*, “ea” → *iy*, “ee” → *iy*, “ei” → *ey*/*iy*, “ey” → *ey*/*iy*, “ie” → *iy*, “oa” → *ow*, “oo” → *u*/*uw*,

Reduced Vowels: *x*, *xr*, and *i*

The use of these letters/sounds for reduced vowels must be one of the trickiest part of

Reqliss. First, words in English may contain many reduced vowels. If all of them were replaced with the corresponding letters in ***Reqliss***, i.e., *x*, *xr*, and *i*, words could be flooded with these letters. For example, “element” could be written as *elimxnt*.

Roberto feels that this is a little too much. So, his approach would be to limit the instances of using letters corresponding to reduced vowels. For example, he would like to leave the transliteration of “element” as *element* for readability and compatibility with English. Thus, the second and the third ‘e’ in “element” are written as if they were not reduced.

Strictly speaking, this would contradict the premise of ***Reqliss*** of regular letter-sound correspondence. However, this situation might still be more desirable than replacing all the reduced vowels. In addition, even if the ***Reqliss*** word *element* is as written and actually pronounced with the *e* sound in ***Reqliss***, the word would still be understood. This may not be case for, say, “orange” (focus on the second vowel). If this was written as *oranj* in ***Reqliss*** and pronounced as such, it will sound odd. In such a case, the word should be written with a letter corresponding to the reduced vowel, i.e., *orinj*.

So, Roberto’s tentative conclusion is as follows. By default, not every instance of reduced vowels is written with *x*, *xr*, and *i* in ***Reqliss***. However, if the pronunciation of a particular reduced vowel appears to be too strong, unnatural, and/or misleading, replace it with the letter corresponding to the reduced vowel, i.e., *x*, *xr*, or *i*. This must be the case especially at the end of a word.

For example, reduced r-colored sequences “ar”/“er”/“ir”/“or”/“ur” at the word-final position should almost always be replaced with *xr*. Word-final weak ‘y’ had better be written as *i*, instead of *iy*.

There also is a case of syllabic consonants, e.g., the ‘l’ sound in “table” and the ‘n’ sound in “listen.” In ***Reqliss***, consonant letters are just consonants (not vowels) and thus not supposed to sustain a syllable. So, syllabic consonants should be supported by the letter/sound *x*: thus, “table” → *teybxl*, “listen” → *lisxn*.

Here are some examples involving reduced vowels:

- “about” → *abawt* (prefer no change, cf. *xbawt*)
- “soda” → *soda* (prefer no change, cf. *sodx*)
- “city” → *siti* (prefer change, cf. *sitiy*)
- “-ly” (adverb ending) → *-li* (prefer change, cf. *-liy*)
- “language” → *laqwij* (prefer change, cf. *laqwaj*)
- “regular” → *regyulxr* (prefer partial change, cf. *regyxlxr*)

Other Adjustments

In order to transliterate English to ***Reqliss***, there need to be some more adjustments due to the grammatical differences between English and ***Reqliss***. These will be discussed below.

Acronyms/Abbreviations/Proper Names

Most commonly used acronyms/abbreviations in English can be used unchanged in ***Reqliss***.

Examples: "ASAP," "ZIP," "EST," "TBA," "NASA," "e.g.," "i.e.," "etc."

Proper names may or may not be transliterated in ***Reqliss***: e.g., New York Times vs. *Nyuw York Taymz*, Chevrolet vs. *Ssevroley*, etc.

Words and Word Class

The main word classes in ***Reqliss*** are: nouns, pronouns, numerals, determiners, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions, verbs, and adverbs, much like in English. In any case, **words do not change forms**. The meaning carried by inflection in English may be expressed with pre- and/or post-modifiers.

Nouns

Nouns do not have gender/number distinctions. When necessary, number-related meaning can be expressed by the use of a determiner as discussed later.

In addition, there is no possessive forms either. This can be expressed with a post-modifier. For example, "John's apple" can be written as: *apxl xv Jan*. Note: the use of *xv* for "of" will be discussed later.

Pronouns

Due to their important roles, pronouns retain certain properties of English counterpart. However, this is done by creating new words and the use of post-modifiers. The main forms of personal pronouns are shown in the following table.

	Singular	Plural
Fist person	*ay* for "I"	***yuway*** ("you" and "I" only) ***yuway iz*** (inclusive "we") *ay* ***iz*** (exclusive "we")
Second person	*yuw* for "you"	*yuw* ***iz***
Third person (male/female)	*dey* for "they" (*hi dey*/*ssi dey*)	*dey* ***iz***

These forms are used both as nominative (subject) and accusative (object) cases. In principle, the plural forms are written with a post-modifier ***iz***. However, Roberto introduced a special new word ***yuway***, which can be used to distinguish certain ambiguous cases in English.

In some cases, personal pronouns may be pronounced weakly. Even then, these words are written in the same way.

Possessive forms are written by adding post-modifier ***pozv***., e.g., *ay pozv* for "my." The reflexive is written as a single fixed word ***self*** (for all varieties, e.g., "myself," "yourself," etc.).

The nominative/accusative forms of demonstratives are shown below.

	Singular	Plural
Near	*dis* for "this"	*dis* ***iz***
Far	*dat* for "that"	*dat* ***iz***
Neutral	*it* for "it"	*it* ***iz***

Interrogative pronouns include: "*who*" → *huw*, "*what*" → *wat*, "*which*" → *wic*.

Numerals

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cardinal	*wxn*	*tuw*	*sriy*	*for*	*fayv*	*siks*	*sevxn*	*eyt*	*nayn*	*ten*
Ordinal	*fxrst*	*sekxnd*	*sxrd*	...						

Determiners

In ***Reqliss***, there are no definite/indefinite articles. If necessary, analogous meaning must be expressed by other determiners: e.g., quantifiers, pronouns, and/or numerals.

Quantifiers include: "all" → *ol*, "some" → *sxm*, "many" → *meni, "various"* → *verixs*

Note that the negation word "no" is written in a special form ***no*** instead of *now*, cf. "know" as *now*.

The possessive forms of personal pronoun, demonstrative pronouns, and numerals can be used as a determiner.

Furthermore, even the distinction between "person" and "people" disappears in ***Reqliss***.

Thus, “people” can be expressed as just *pxrsxn* (“person”), *sxm pxrsxn* (“some people”), *meni pxrsxn* (“many people”), *dat iz pxrsxn* (“those people”), etc.

Adjectives

The comparative and superlative forms of adjective are always formed by adding *mor* (“more”) and *most* (“most”), respectively, in front of an adjective: e.g., *mor gud* for “better.”

Prepositions

Reqliss can use all the prepositions in English as transliterated in a straightforward manner. However, Roberto also wants to experiment with a new set of prepositions.

In English, common prepositions are highly overloaded and confusing to Roberto. So, he attempts to introduce in ***Reqliss*** a small and fixed number of new prepositions with clearly distinctive meaning as shown in the following list.

- Time/temporal (general): “at”/“on”/“in” → ***temp*** (e.g., *temp tuw oklak*)
- Time (starting/beginning point): “from”/“since” → ***begpo***
- Time (end point): “until”/“to” → ***endpo***
- Time (duration): “for” → ***dur***
- Time (limit/target): “by” → ***targ***
- Time (others): “before” → *bifor*, “after” → *aftxr*
- Space/location (general): “at”/“on”/“in” → ***lok*** (e.g., *lok London*)
- Space (proximity): “by”/“near” → ***proks***
- Space (others): “above” → *abxv*, “below” → *bilow*, “over” → *owvxr*, “under” → *xndxr* “between” → *bitwiyn*, “behind” → *bihaynd*, “against” → *agenst*
- Movement/providing (origin/provider): “from” → ***orij***
- Movement/providing (destination/recipient): “to”/“for” → ***dest***
- Movement (others): “towards” → *todz*, “through” → *sruw*, “across” → *akros*, “into” → *intuw*, “around” → *arawnd*, “past” → *past*, “up” → *xp*, “down” → *dawn*
- Relationship (agent): “by” → ***eyje***
- Relationship (material/substance): “of” → ***sxbs***
- Relationship (possession/association): “of” → ***asoss***
- Relationship (others): “with” → *wid*, “as” → *az*, “about” → *abawt*
- Other (mode of transportation): “by”/“on” → ***trans***
- Other (unit/measurement): “by” → ***mej***

- Others: “to” → ***tu*** (short/weakened form, cf. *tuw* for “too” and “two”), “among” → *amxq*, “despite” → *dispayt*, “of” (especially, as part of a determiner, e.g., “number of”) → *xv*

Note: “of” in a determiner cluster, e.g., “a number of,” should not be transliterated as ***asoss***.

Conjunctions

Here is a list of conjunctions in ***Reqliss*** (with a single addition).

- Coordinating: “and” → *and*, “or” → *or*/***eksor*** (exclusive or), “but” → *bxt*, “nor” → *nor*, “so” → *sow*, “yet” → *yet*
- Subordinating (time): “after” → *aftxr*, “before” → *bifor*, “since” → *sins*, until” → *xntil*, “when” → *wen*, “while” → *wayl*
- Subordinating (space): “where” → *wer*
- Subordinating (cause/effect): “because” → *bikoz*
- Subordinating (condition): “if” → *if*, “unless” → *xnles*
- Subordinating (other): “although” → *oldow*, “whether” → *wedxr*, “how” → *haw*

To reduce the overloading of certain words, the following conjunctions are discouraged in ***Reqliss***: “since,” “for”, “as” for cause/effect (*bicoz* is preferred) and “though” for contrast (*oldow* is preferred).

Verbs

Various extended meaning of a verb is expressed by the use of a verb cluster, consisting of various function words before a verb.

Position	Function	***Reqliss*** Word
1	Modal	*kan/mey/mxst/ssal/wil/niyd*
2	Subjunctive	***sxbj***
3	Perfect	***hxv***
4	Negative	***neg***
5	Past	***id***
6	Progressive	***iq***
7	Passive	***pasv***
8	**verb**	***verb***

Subjunctives in English are usually formed with “could,” “might,” “should,” “would,” etc. In ***Reqliss***, these are expressed as *kan sxbj*, *mey sxbj*, *ssal sxbj*, and *wil sxbj*, respectively. While the main verb “have” is written as *hav*, the auxiliary verb “have” is written as ***hxv*** (as in the above table) for disambiguation purposes.

Examples: “ate” → *id eat*, “is eating” → *iq eat*, “have eaten” → *hav eat*, “haven’t eaten” → *hav neg eat*, “didn’t eat” → *neg id eat*, “was eaten” → *id pasv eat*, “couldn’t have been eaten” → *kan sxbj hxv neg pasv eat*

Note that the “be” verb is always written as ***bi*** (cf. “bee” as *biy*). Various forms of “be” are expressed based on the verb cluster pattern. For example, the subjunctive form of “be” (“were”) is written as *sxbj bi*., cf. *id bi* for the past forms, “was”/“were.”

When a verb is used not as a main verb (e.g., as a participle/modifier), the verb cluster is hyphennated, e.g., *pasv-fiks* (for “fixed”), *iq-flay* (for “flying”)

Adverbs

Examples of adverb include: “here” → *hir*, “there” → *der*, “now” → *naw*, “today” → *tudey*, “almost” → *olmowst*, “often” → *ofxn*, “sometimes” → *sxmtaymz*, “never” → *nevxr*, etc.

Phrase/Clause/Sentence Structure

Noun Phrase

The structure is analogous to that in English. Note that there are some special words in ***Reqliss*** as shown in the following table.

Position	Content
1	Determiners • Quantifiers • Possessive personal pronouns • Demonstratives • Numerals
2	Adjectives/Nouns
3	***noun***
4	Post-modifiers/Complements • Prepositional phrase • Relative clause (special word ***rel*** for “that”/“which”/“who”) • “to”-phrase (with infinitive ***tu***, instead of *tuw*) • “that”-clause (with ***dxt***, instead of *dat*)

Verb Phrase

The structure is analogous to English. The verb may be followed by objects (direct/indirect), complement, and/or modifiers. Adverbs may be used as pre- and/or post modifiers.

Clause/Sentence Structure

The basic clause/sentence structure is analogous to English (i.e., SOV). However, since ***Reqliss*** words do not change forms, pronouns and verb clusters are markedly different from English.

Sentence Types

- Statement: Terminated with '.'
- Yes-no question: Begun with the keyword ***Kwest*** and terminated with '?'
- Wh-question: Begun with a question word, e.g., *hu*, *wat*, *wic*, *wen*, *wer*, *haw*, etc., and terminated with '?' Note that the phrase corresponding to the question word need to be missing from the sentence just as in English.
- Exclamation: Begun with the keyword ***Eks*** and terminated with '!'

Capitalization

The rule is similar to English, except for no capitalization for first person singular pronoun *ay* ("I"). In principle, the first letters of a sentence or a proper noun are capitalized.

Comma Separation

Sentence-initial adverbial phrases must be comma-separated. Non-restrictive relative clauses must be comma-separated. Sentence-final modifiers may be comma-separated.

Reqliss Word Marking within English

If italics is not available, e.g., in a text file, ***Reqliss*** words can be enclosed with / and /, e.g., "`this is an example of including a Reqliss word /wxrd/ in a sentence in English.`"

Translation Example

English: "The savior mentality means that you want to help others but are not open to guidance from those you want to help. Saviors fundamentally believe they are better than the people they are rescuing. Saviors want to support the struggle of communities that are not their own, but they believe they must remain in charge. The savior always wants to lead, never to follow. When the people they have chosen to rescue tell them they are not helping, they think those people are mistaken. It is almost taken as evidence that they need more help." (Jordan Flaherty)

Reqliss: "*Seyvixr mentaliti miyn dxt yuw wxnt tu help meni xdxr bxt neg bi owpxn tu gaydans orij dat iz rel yuw wxnt tu help. Seyvixr fxndamentali biliyv dxt dey iz bi betxr dan pxrsxn rel dey iz iq reskyuw. Seyvixr wxnt tu sxport strxgxl asoss komyuniti rel neg bi dey iz pozv own, bxt dey iz biliyv dxt dey iz mxst rimeyn in carj. Seyvixr olweyz wxnt tu liyd, nevxr tu falow. Wen pxrsxn rel dey iz hav cuwz tu reskyuw tel dey iz dxt dey iz neg iq help, dey iz sink dxt dat iz piypxl pasv misteyk. Dis olmowst pasv teyk az evidens dxt dey iz niyd mor help*." (*Jordan Flahxrti*)

Kxqkluwjxn

Naw, xltimit test asoss Reqliss mey bi tu rayt dis seksson in dis laqwij and siy if yuw kan riyd and xndxrstand it. Fxrst, list asoss Reqliss fiycxr bi pasv show bilow.

- *Sistematik letxr-sawnd korespandxns, i.e. wxn letxr - wxn sawnd (eksept for ss)*
- *No wxrd form ceynj*
- *Mor or les regyulxr nawn, pronawn, and vxrb klxstxr*
- *Introdxkssxn asoss smol and pasv-fiks nxmbxr xv nyuw fxqksson wxrd*

Wxns yuw now beysik aydix and rimembxr smol nxumbxr xv spessixl fxqkssxn wxrd, yuw kan riyd/rayt Reqliss iyzli pasv-beys on nalij asoss dis laqwij.

Although the above story refers to certain real linguistic information, it is still a work of fiction.

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